

09/262,458, titled "Gate Array Architecture", by Prossley, filed March 4, 1999, assigned to the assignee of the present invention, these **same** claims had previously been **allowed** by the Examiner in the presence of precisely the same cited patents. Therefore, Applicant filed this continuation to permit these allowed claims to proceed to issuance. It is unclear to the Applicant from the Examiner's office action what may have changed to result in the present rejection when previously the Examiner had allowed these claims over the same cited patents.

Furthermore, Applicant believes that the Examiner was correct in his previous allowance and that these claims do distinguish over the cited patents. As one example, immediately successive rows of diffusion regions do not have opposite polarity in the cited patents. It is, therefore, requested that the Examiner withdraw his rejection.

It is likewise noted that the Examiner has indicated that one of the documents cited in the IDS was not provided. Applicant will provide this document in a separate IDS.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-0967. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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9/30/02

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